

April 1, 2005

Chief, Policy and Compliance Division

Transmittal # 81 CHAMPVA Policy Manual

**PUBLICATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL CHANGE
FOR THE CHAMPVA PM (POLICY MANUAL)**

Explanation of the changes and related index updates to the CHAMPVA PM are in the following summary.

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL INTRODUCTION.

- Under A. removes reference to the Code of Federal Regulations.
- Under C.5. adds that unless otherwise noted, 38 CFR 17.270 -17.278 are the authorities for policies found within the CHAMPVA Policy Manual.
- Under C.7. removes TRICARE Policy reference and renumbers subsequent paragraphs.

Chapter 2, Section 3.5, PROSTATE CANCER.

- Under Policy adds further clarification that digital rectal examinations and PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) tests are covered.

Chapter 2, Section 4.1, CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM.

- Amends Procedure Codes.
- Under Policy Considerations adds that gama and beta intracoronary radiotherapy (brachytherapy) is covered for the treatment of in-stent restenosis in native coronary arteries, and adds criteria and coverage for TMR (Transmyocardial Revascularization) for patients with stable class III or IV angina.
- Under Exclusions adds PMR (Percutaneous Myocardial Laser Revascularization), PTA (Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty) in the treatment of obstructive lesions of the carotid, vertebral and cerebral arteries, and signal-averaged electrocardiography.

Chapter 2, Section 4.5, INTRACORONARY STENTS.

- Amends the Procedure Codes.

Chapter 2, Section 15.1, EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES (OFFICE VISITS) GENERAL.

- Amends the Procedure Codes

Chapter 2, Section 15.3, HOME VISITS.

- Amends the Procedure Codes by identifying non-Physician code range.
- Under Exclusions adds home infusion for tocolytic therapy.

Chapter 2, Section 16.4, HOSPICE.

- Under Exclusions adds in-home respite care.

Chapter 2, Section 17.8, REQUIREMENTS FOR FDA (FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION) APPROVAL FOR MEDICAL DEVICE.

- Amends Authority and Related Authority.
- Under Effective Date clarifies category -B IDE (Investigational Device Exemption) effective date as the date the device is classified as a category-B device by the FDA.
- Under Description adds criteria for medical devices as defined under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
- Under Policy adds criteria for coverage of medical devices approved and non-approved by the FDA.
- Under Exclusions adds that off-label or non-approved FDA applications that are not documented as safe, effective, and in accordance with nationally accepted standards of practice in the medical community.

Chapter 2, Section 23.1A, ADDENDUM 1, PREVENTIVE SERVICES.

- Adds further clarification that digital rectal examinations and PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) tests are covered benefits.

Chapter 2, Section 26.15, ULTRASOUND GUIDED SCLEROTHERAPY.

- Under Exclusions adds treatment of spider veins (telangiectasia).

Chapter 2, Section 29.17, EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES (OFFICE VISITS) WITH SURGERY.

- Amends the Procedure Codes

Chapter 2, Section 30.1, PHYSICAL MEDICINE/THERAPY.

- Amends the Procedure Codes

Chapter 2, Section 30.6, BRACHTHERAPY/RADIATION THERAPY.

- Under Policy Considerations adds breast cancer as an adjunct to WBRT (Whole-Breast Radiation Therapy) after breast-conserving surgery in patients with unilateral stage I or II breast cancer.
- Under Exclusions adds brachytherapy in the treatment of stage III or IV breast cancer.

Code Index. Amends index to add and delete codes referenced in this transmittal.

Subject Index. Amends index to add and delete changes referenced in this transmittal.

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